

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314



22 JAN 1974

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: IVO

SUBJECT: Updating of 1967 Study on Provocations and Harassment of United States Personnel in Soviet Bloc Countries

TO: Mr. Howard J. Osborn  
Chairman, Security Committee  
United States Intelligence Board  
Central Intelligence Agency

1. Listed are incidents which have occurred involving travel of USAF associated personnel to Communist-bloc countries which illustrate the harassment potential of such travel. The examples have been sanitized to conform with the format presented in the 1967 Study.

a. Two USAF dependent women travelling through a Communist-bloc country as tourists, returned from an evening concert to the hotel lounge where they were befriended by two local men. An exchange of drinks and dancing took place when unexpectedly, one of the local men quickly departed, accompanied by three other men. One of the American girls later visited the restroom and upon departure, was taken to a large room and questioned by two men about her association with local citizens. She was asked for her passport, the reason for her visit to the country and other personal data. Repeatedly she was questioned about her knowledge of the two local men she had met in the lounge. The questioning officials appeared to doubt her several recounts of the evening's activities. An American tour friend entered the room and challenged the local officials for detaining the girl; at this point the girl was allowed to depart and subsequently returned to her hotel room, where she was warned by a local maid that she was being "watched." She departed the country without further involvement or impediment by officials.

b. An American military member travelled to a Communist-bloc country as a tour group member and was singled out by customs personnel at the incoming border and delayed 15 minutes while officials surveyed his "official" passport. During this tour, several American women were telephoned at different times by local men asking for social engagements. In private, an American girl asked tour members how to dispose of extra local currency; she placed the small amount in her brassiere. Exiting

USAF review(s) completed.

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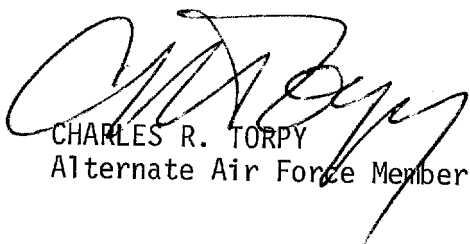
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the country she was singled out for a complete strip-search by custom officials. These experiences of several American tourists continue to illustrate the close scrutiny exhibited by Communist-bloc officials.

c. An American travelling through a Communist-bloc country curiously opened desks and closets in a local hotel room and subsequently found what appeared to be a covert listening device placed inside a false wall vent. Several members of this tour claimed their locked luggage had been opened and left unlocked. One member's camera was stolen from hotel luggage and later returned with the film cassette damaged. Although all American tour members experienced close scrutiny by local officials during their travels, no personal confrontations were made during the trip.

2. Within the last year, several USAF members planning travel to Communist-bloc countries have reported attempts by tourist agencies to falsify the member's military status, thus circumventing denial of travel by the bloc country involved. This technique, if utilized successfully by the tour agency, projects a military member into a bloc country under an assumed vocation, thus subjecting the American to possible prosecution by Communist authorities. Although vocation falsification is not technically harassment, the implications clearly could jeopardize a military member's status while visiting a Communist-bloc country.

4. We have no substantive changes to recommend for the subject updating.

  
CHARLES R. TORPY  
Alternate Air Force Member

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